CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test in plural

2   phases, each phase comprising the steps of:

3   a)   recording a plurality of test files of varying sizes to a partition of the

4   disk drive in a recording sequence until the free space of the partition is less than a

5   predetermined value; and thereafter

6   b)   deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the partition in a

7   deletion sequence, the deletion sequence being different from both the recording sequence

8   and a reverse of the recording sequence.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein a processing phase comprises step a)

2   and step b), the method further comprising the steps of:

3   c)   measuring a performance parameter of the disk drive prior to the

4   processing phase; and

5   d)   measuring the performance parameter after the processing phase.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

2   e)   performing a second processing phase after step d); and

3   f)   measuring the performance parameter after the second processing

4   phase.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the recording step a) comprises the

2   steps of:

3   a1)   generating a random number uniformly distributed between a

4   minimum file size and a maximum file size;

5   a2)   creating a next test file;

6   a3)   writing the random number bytes to the next test file; and

10

7   a4)   repeating steps a1)–a3) until the free space is less than the random

8   number; and

9   a5)   repeating steps a1)–a4) a predetermined number of times.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the predetermined number of times

2   equals ten.

1   6.   The method of claim 4 wherein the deleting step b) comprises the

2   steps of:

3   b1)   generating a second random number between one and a maximum

4   number of test files;

5   b2)   deleting the second random number test file when it exists; and

6   b3)   repeating steps b1)–b2) a second predetermined number of times.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 wherein the second predetermined number of

2   times is equal to one-half the number of test files present prior to the deleting step b).

1   8.   A computer program product comprising a computer readable

2   medium carrying program means for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test,

3   the computer program product comprising:

4   code means for recording a plurality of test files to a partition of the disk

5   drive until a free space of the partition is less than a predetermined value; and

6   code means for deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the

7   partition.